



DIRECTORS GENERAL OF CIVIL AVIATION-MIDDLE EAST REGION

Eighth Meeting (DGCA-MID/8) *(Doha, Qatar, 26 – 28 October 2026)*

Agenda Item 7: Aviation Security, Cybersecurity and Facilitation

CYBERSECURITY IN THE MID REGION: COORDINATED MEASURES FOR AVIATION SECURITY AND AIR NAVIGATION

(Presented by the Secretariat)

SUMMARY

This paper summarizes the outcomes of the MID-RASFG/5 and the MIDANPIRG/23 meetings concerning cybersecurity, highlighting its cross-functional nature and the importance of coordinated efforts across aviation safety, security, and air navigation domains; and seeks for directives on the best way forward.

Action by the meeting is at paragraph 3.

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 The Middle East Regional Cybersecurity and Resilience Symposium (Doha, Qatar, 6 – 8 November 2023) was held with the objective of addressing and raising awareness on cybersecurity threats, risks, challenges and resolution. It also aimed to foster and promote cybersecurity culture for a secure cyberspace and provide a forum for sharing experience and best practices.

1.2 MID-RASFG/5 (Doha, Qatar, 3-5 February 2026) reviewed the status of the Cybersecurity and Resilience Symposium follow-up survey.

1.3 MIDNPIRG/23 (Cairo, Egypt, 14-18 June 2026) was briefed on the actions undertaken by the MID-RASFG/5 meeting regarding cybersecurity.

2. DISCUSSION

2.1 The MID-RASFG/5 recognized the complexity of cybersecurity being cross-functional requiring the involvement of specialists of different backgrounds (AVSEC, ANS, etc.) for the elevation of the regional level of cybersecurity implementation each within their area of expertise, yet collaboratively to synchronize synergies.

2.2 The regional statistics demonstrated common concern on cybersecurity capacity building programme highlighting the lack of aviation related cybersecurity specialized training and the effectiveness of current cybersecurity awareness.

2.3 The MID-RASFG/5 urged States to participate in global and regional cybersecurity events and follow-up on the development of the new Aviation Cybersecurity Manual.

2.4 MID-RASFG/5, through Conclusion 5/1, agreed that the Secretariat should present a Working Paper to the upcoming DGCA-MID/8 meeting proposing the establishment of a regional, multidisciplinary Aviation Cybersecurity Task Force to promote a coordinated and integrated approach to aviation cybersecurity across the MID Region.

2.5 MIDANPIRG/23 supported the establishment of an Aviation Cybersecurity Ad-hoc Working Group, while emphasizing the importance of avoiding duplication of efforts, ensuring effective coordination with existing regional initiatives, and optimizing the use of States' resources.

2.6 MIDANPIRG/23 further emphasized the need to strengthen coordination among civil aviation authorities, national cybersecurity agencies, Air Navigation Service Providers (ANSPs), and industry stakeholders to foster an integrated and collaborative approach to aviation cybersecurity governance and assurance.

2.7 MIDANPIRG/23 also noted that the Arab Civil Aviation Organization (ACAO) had established a Cybersecurity Committee and invited ACAO to report on the outcomes of the Committee's work to the CNS Sub-Group and MIDANPIRG, as appropriate, to facilitate information-sharing and coordination between the relevant regional initiatives.

2.8 In light of the above, and taking into account the cross-functional nature of aviation cybersecurity, further consideration is required to determine the most appropriate mechanism for advancing regional cooperation, including whether to establish a Task Force or an Ad-hoc Working Group. In particular, its mandate, terms of reference (TORs), composition and working arrangements should be clearly defined, with a view to ensuring effective coordination across the relevant aviation domains, complementarity with existing initiatives, and alignment with ICAO's global aviation cybersecurity framework.

3. ACTION BY THE MEETING

3.1 The meeting is invited to:

- a) encourage States to actively participate in relevant global and regional aviation cybersecurity events and initiatives, and to follow developments related to the preparation of the new ICAO Aviation Cybersecurity Manual;
- b) agree on the need for a coordinated regional mechanism to address aviation cybersecurity, taking into account the outcomes of MID-RASFG/5 and MIDANPIRG/23, the work of ACAO's Cybersecurity Committee, and the need to avoid duplication of efforts; and
- c) task the Chairpersons of MID-RASFG and MIDANPIRG, supported by the ICAO MID Office, to identify the mandate, terms of reference, composition and working arrangements of the proposed group.